

Covered Electronic Waste Recycling Program - Historical CEW Recycling Claim Volumes

CalRecycle tracks the volume of covered electronic waste (CEW) recovered and recycled within the program through data submitted along with recycling payment claims. The depiction of claim volumes in the chart below reflects the general growth trends of the program since its inception in January 2005 on a quarterly basis. Factors affecting the fluctuating volumes have potentially included the lowered payment rate (effective July 2008), economic uncertainty, the digital television broadcast transition in first half of 2009, and the fundamental availability of recycling opportunities over the past ten years that has recovered much of the legacy stockpile.

Most notably, in October 2009, cathode ray tube (CRT) glass market disruptions involving Mexican processors significantly affected the volume of claims submitted in and immediately after 4th quarter 2009. (A condition of submitting a payment claim is that all CRT glass derived from recycling CEW is shipped to an authorized destination.) However, participating collectors and recyclers continued overall CEW recovery and recycling activities and the volume of processed and claimed CEW rebounded.

In recent years, the amount of recovered and recycled CRT devices has continued to decline, as the amount of non-CRT devices increases. Changes in the make-up of CEW entering the recovery and recycling program due to evolving video technologies may affect the future weights claimed, as heavy CRT devices give way to lighter flat panels. Conversely, the costs of processing non-CRT devices likely has challenges for dismantling, and in many cases, these devices also have lower commodity value. The net cost of processing such varied devices has yet to be clearly determined. CalRecycle is currently conducting analysis in preparation of future recycling payment rate considerations.

Graphic depicts amounts of CEW claimed from the beginning of 2005 to the end of 2016.

